



700.05 Canine (K-9)

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POLICY

K-9 officers are to perform searches, tracks, and other related duties when called out. They will perform searches as prescribed by law for drugs, suspects, lost persons, etc. When not on a call-out, the deputy and K-9 will be assigned to a district patrol squad for routine patrol.

PROCEDURE

A. Selection requirements:

1. K-9 officer openings will be posted agency wide and selection made by command endorsement and review board qualifications.
2. Deputies must have completed the Field Training and Evaluation Program and one-year probationary period with the agency.
3. No sustained formal disciplinary action within the past 12 months.
4. Must be able to control a police K-9 and pass a physical agility course.
5. Must review and sign the Hendry County Sheriff's Office K-9 Deputy Handler Agreement.

B. Training and Certification

1. FDLE Patrol K-9 Certification (Annually)
2. ATF National Odor Recognition Test (NORT) (Biennially)
3. HCSO K-9 Drug Detection Certification (Annually)
4. HCSO K-9 Weekly Training.

C. Deployment and Call Out

1. K-9 teams are assigned to Operational Services. In instances where a K-9 team is summoned to a scene, on-scene personnel should secure the scene, establish a perimeter and prevent scent contamination until the K-9 team arrives. If a K-9 team is used for crowd control, the shift supervisor should notify a lieutenant from the district it occurred and the K-9 supervisor as soon as possible.
2. K-9 teams can be used for:
 - a. Searches
 - b. Tracking
 - c. Crowd control
3. When supporting field units, the K-9 team coordinates, cooperates, and reports to the on-scene supervisor.

4. In the event directives are given that expose K-9 teams or persons on the scene to excessive risks, hazards, or injuries, the K-9 deputy will advise the on-scene supervisor of the inappropriateness of the action requested.
 5. On-duty K-9 teams
 - a. On-duty K-9 teams will respond to crimes in progress and will assist other law enforcement units.
 - b. The K-9 team will handle any self-initiated calls and should assist other law enforcement units as a backup when possible.
 - c. K-9 teams may be assigned to a particular patrol squad and respond to calls for service as needed.
 6. Off-duty K-9 teams
 - a. When K-9 teams are off duty, the patrol supervisor may authorize a call out after a scene has been evaluated.
 - b. A monthly K-9 On-Call Schedule will be provided to the Telecommunications Center by the K-9 supervisor.
 - c. When the on-call K-9 deputy is notified of a call-out he/she will contact the Telecommunications Center or patrol supervisor within 15 minutes and give an estimated response time.
- D. Authorized Uses of K-9 Teams
1. Tracking and Area Searches - tracks can be conducted for missing, injured, or endangered persons in addition to aiding in the apprehension of criminal suspects. The following procedures will be used when K-9 teams are requested to track:
 - a. Area Search – an area search may be conducted if there is not a starting point for a track. The following procedure will be followed:
 1. Attempts should be made **not** to contaminate the crime scene and the route of escape. Unauthorized persons will not be permitted within the perimeter. In the absence of a supervisor, the initial responding deputy at the scene will determine who is authorized to enter the perimeter.
 2. Any type of evidence or scent article at a crime scene should not be contaminated.
 3. Deputies will assist the K-9 team as directed by the K-9 deputy.
 4. Prior to the K-9 team conducting a track, a verbal warning may be given. The warning will announce the presence and imminent release of a Sheriff's Office canine. This warning may be given to avoid injuries to innocent bystanders and/or allow the suspect the opportunity to surrender. The warning will be given only by the K-9 deputy and not given prior to the K-9 team's arrival as a ploy for surrender.
 - b. K-9 Building Search - The following procedures will be used:
 1. The first deputy on the scene will deploy backup units to establish a perimeter around the building.
 2. Deputies on the scene will maintain the perimeter and not enter or allow anyone else to enter the building. Deputies should not stand near the point of entry or exit.
 3. The deputy in charge of the scene should brief the K-9 deputy of the situation upon his/her arrival. Attention should be focused on

- the entry and exit points, movement detected inside the building and/or perimeter, or any other pertinent information.
4. Deputies on the scene should ensure that everyone stays clear of all doors and windows while the K-9 team searches.
 5. Prior to the K-9 team conducting a building search, a verbal warning will be given. The warning will give notice of the presence and imminent release of a Sheriff's Office canine. This warning will be given to avoid injuries to innocent bystanders and allow the suspect the opportunity to surrender. The warning will be given only by the K-9 deputy and not given prior to the K-9 team's arrival as a ploy for surrender.
2. Crowd Control - canine use for crowd control may be conducted at the request of a supervisor. The following procedures will be used when a K-9 team has been requested for crowd control:
 - a. No K-9 team will be used for crowd control without the knowledge and authority of the on-duty supervisor, unless the delay in obtaining said authority places citizens or deputies in unnecessary peril. In the absence of an on-scene supervisor, the K-9 deputy will determine use of the canine to prevent or avoid injury to a law enforcement officer or citizen.
 - b. The shift supervisor will notify a lieutenant of the use of a K-9 team for crowd control as soon as possible.
 - c. In the event K-9 teams are used for crowd control, the team should work in conjunction with other K-9 teams, if available.
 - d. The canine will not apprehend people unless the actions of the crowd escalate to the point where the K-9 handlers and/or deputies are in danger of physical harm.
 - e. The K-9 deputy will keep his/her canine on a lead to ensure the canine maintains a reasonable distance from the nearest person in the crowd being dispersed, unless the situation dictates that the canine be released to apprehend and control a suspect.
 3. Protection - The K-9 deputy may use the canine for self-protection and to assist other law enforcement officers or citizens as necessary in accordance with law, and written directives (K-9 Operations Manual).
 4. Object Search - the following procedures will be used when a K-9 team is requested to conduct an article search, narcotics search or explosive search:
 - a. Article Search
 1. A supervisor will evaluate the need for a K-9 team to conduct an article search. The scene should be secured to prevent contamination and no one should be allowed within the search area.
 2. The deputy on the scene will be responsible for the protection of any recovered evidence until it can be properly processed and collected.
 - b. Narcotics Search – The following procedures will be used when K-9 teams are requested to conduct a narcotics search.
 1. The deputy on the scene will be responsible for ensuring the scene is not contaminated. The scene should not be searched prior to the K-9 team's arrival.

2. It is the responsibility of the K-9 deputy to explain the limitations or capabilities of his/her canine.
3. The deputy on the scene must be prepared to take the appropriate measures after the canine gives a positive alert indicating the presence of the odor of narcotics (i.e. arrest, secure a search warrant if needed, take custody of the located narcotics and place into evidence).
4. Narcotics detection canines will not be used to search for narcotics on a person.
5. Doors and windows of structures or vehicles to be searched should be left closed until the K-9 team begins the search.
- c. Explosive Search – The following procedures will be utilized when K-9 teams are requested to conduct an explosives search.
 1. If a suspicious item is located during the initial search, the Southwest Florida Bomb Unit will be notified.
 2. Only Southwest Florida Bomb Unit personnel will request an explosive-detection K-9 team when a suspicious item has been found.
 3. When a bomb threat has been made and a particular area in a building has been targeted, the explosive-detection K-9 team may respond.
 4. The explosive-detection K-9 team may respond upon request to conduct a sweep prior to the arrival or during the stay of a dignitary, or at an area where a threat assessment reveals the possibility of an explosive device being placed.
 5. The explosive-detection K-9 deputy will coordinate with Southwest Florida Bomb Unit personnel when appropriate.
 6. Bomb Unit personnel are responsible for keeping the K-9 Unit supervisor abreast of current trends in improvised explosives and components to ensure updated training is obtained.
5. Public Relations – The Hendry County Sheriff’s Office K-9 teams are vital tools that enhance public relations in the community.
 - a. Requests for public demonstrations should be routed through the Community Relations Captain.
 - b. Care will be taken to prevent accidental injury to the public while demonstrations are being conducted.
- E. Unauthorized uses of canine – K-9 teams will not be used for the following situations:
 1. To affect the arrest of a highly intoxicated or feeble person who obviously could not escape or resist the deputy.
 2. To intimidate, coerce, or frighten a suspect in custody.
 3. After a suspect surrenders or is secured and complies with the commands of the deputy and poses no threat.
 4. Safety precautions relating to canines - when a K-9 deputy is injured, on-site personnel will take the following precautions. These precautions are necessary to avoid injury to Sheriff’s Office Personnel while the canine is protecting his/her handler.
 - a. The K-9 vehicle or handler will not be approached unless the injury is life threatening.

- b. The K-9 supervisor and the closest K-9 deputy will be notified immediately to respond.
 - c. The injured handler will attempt to control the canine.
 - d. If the above fails and the situation is life threatening for the handler, disabling force may be necessary to secure the canine. This action must be a last resort.
- F. Working with K-9 teams
 - 1. Deputies will follow the K-9 handler's instruction when requested to assist.
 - 2. Deputies will provide cover for the K-9 team during the search.
- G. Assisting other agencies
 - 1. Resources permitting, K-9 teams may assist other law enforcement agencies within Hendry County.
 - 2. The K-9 supervisor, or a patrol supervisor, may approve immediate law enforcement requests to assist outside of Hendry County.
 - 3. When assisting other agencies or operating outside of Hendry County, K-9 teams will adhere to Agency directives and mutual aid agreements.
- H. Canine Inflicted Injuries To a Suspect
 - 1. When a suspect is injured during a suspect apprehension, the following will occur:
 - a. The handler will control the canine.
 - b. The suspect will be secured by assisting law enforcement personnel.
 - c. Render first aid and request the appropriate medical assistance, if necessary. It will be the handler's responsibility to ensure timely treatment of wounds.
 - d. The K-9 deputy will document all necessary information on the appropriate reports, and forward this documentation through the chain of command.
 - e. The injury will be photographed.
 - f. The K-9 supervisor and patrol supervisor will be notified as soon as possible.
- I. Canine Inflicted Accidental Injuries
 - 1. The handler will control the canine.
 - 2. **Medical aid will be summoned.**
 - 3. The K-9 deputy will document the accidental injury using the appropriate reports, and forward the documentation through the K-9 deputy's command.
 - 4. The K-9 supervisor and patrol supervisor will be notified as soon as possible.
- J. If an agency K-9 escapes from the custody of its handler or caregiver, the following will occur:
 - 1. The K-9 supervisor will be notified immediately
 - 2. The patrol supervisor will be notified immediately and assist in the search for the K-9
 - 3. The Telecommunications Center supervisor will be notified immediately
 - 4. An Aviation Unit will be used, if available
 - 5. The K-9 supervisor will ensure that the appropriate reports are completed in accordance with the K-9 Operations Manual.
- K. Narcotics Training Aid

1. All K-9 training narcotics will be acquired in various amounts from the DEA every three (3) years. The various amounts will be weighted, packaged, heat sealed, and labeled.
2. All narcotics training aids are disposed of every three (3) years prior to receiving the new training aids by evidence unit and DEA procedures.
3. All K-9 training narcotics will be secured and stored in the evidence section, until request for check-out by an approved member of the K-9 unit.
 - a. Approved member will request thru evidence unit to check out K-9 training narcotics
 - b. All check-out are documented of training aids which shows inspection and weigh. Check-out member will sign and be responsible for all training aid.
 - c. Training Aids are placed in a secured locked box for storage and transporting.
 - d. Check-out member is responsible for turning in training aids to the evidence unit or evidence lockers by the end of shift. If necessary, documentation will show any lost, missing, or damaged training aids.
4. Evidence Unit will document the turned in training aid which will show inspection and weight.
5. The Sheriff or his designee, will conduct and document an annual unannounced inventory of K-9 narcotics training aids. Any lost, missing, or stolen narcotics will have a follow-up investigation. Follow-up will be completed in a reasonable time and can result in corrective actions.

L. Documentation

1. All K-9 training will be documented and approved by the K-9 supervisor.
2. All K-9 deployments will be documented and approved by the K-9 supervisor.
3. All reports will be completed and approved by the appropriate chain of command.

M. In order to comply with the Fair Labor and Standards Act of February 19, 1985, and the United States Supreme Court Ruling in Garcia v. San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority, the K-9 Unit will adhere to the following:

1. K-9 deputies will receive the following compensation in relation to the duties as K-9 deputies.
 - a. K-9 deputies will be granted one hour of each shift to feed, groom, and otherwise care for their assigned canines.
 - b. K-9 deputies will be compensated one hour for each scheduled day off for feeding, grooming, and otherwise care for their assigned canines.
 - c. When taking leave of any kind, K-9 deputies will be charged with one hour less than their duty hours. This allows one hour for care of the canine as described above, unless the canine is kenneled at the expense of the Sheriff's Office, as the K-9 deputy will not be responsible for the care of the canine during this time.
 - d. K-9 Deputies will be given approved uniforms and work boots as needed upon their request and supervisor approval.

N. Patrol K-9 Vehicle

1. Vehicle Usage
 - a. The primary use of the K-9 vehicle is for the transportation and safety of the police canine, vehicle occupants, and public.
 - b. The vehicle's back seating area has been modified by removing the rear seat and installing an aluminum "dog box" that houses the canine. The

box is designed and manufactured with the safety of the canine, vehicle occupants, and public in mind. It ensures the canine is secured while in the vehicle, until such time the handler removes or allows the canine to depart the vehicle.

- c. The vehicle is equipped with an interior temperature-monitoring device (heat alarm) to monitor the temperature inside the vehicle. Should the temperature exceed a pre-set level, the following will occur:
 1. the vehicle's horn will activate intermittently
 2. the vehicle's rear windows will automatically roll down
 3. fans within the vehicle will activate to circulate air
 4. vehicle's emergency warning lights will activate.
2. Instructions, Conditions, and Usage of the Vehicle
 - a. The K-9 vehicle is to be operated by a K-9 deputy for the purpose of patrol and transportation of his/her K-9.
 - b. The vehicle conforms to the standards set as an authorized apprehension vehicle, fully equipped with emergency equipment.
 - c. The vehicle is used in the same manner as a regular patrol vehicle with the exception of transporting persons in-custody unless specifically designed for such use.
3. Authorization for Use of the Vehicle
 - a. The primary use of the K-9 vehicle is for the transportation of the K-9 by the K-9 deputy. Such uses include, but are not limited to:
 1. On duty with a K-9
 2. Transportation of the K-9 to/from veterinary appointments
 3. Use while in an on-call status
 4. Any other approved usage by the K-9 Unit supervisor or Sheriff
4. Vehicle Operation/Maintenance
 - a. Operators of the vehicle must be familiar with the special equipment contained on and within the vehicle if operating the vehicle without the K-9.
 - b. No one, other than the K-9's handler, should be operating the vehicle while the K-9 is present unless instructed to do so by the handler or during an emergency situation.
 - c. The K-9 deputy assigned the vehicle is responsible for:
 1. ensuring all maintenance and repairs are performed on the vehicle
 2. ensuring all equipment, including specialty equipment is in proper working order at all times
 3. maintaining a log of weekly testing of the temperature monitoring device
 4. ensuring the temperature monitoring device is de-activated when off-duty
5. Equipment necessary for the performance of the K-9 team's job function is authorized to be stored in the vehicle. Such items include, but are not limited to:
 - a. extra duty uniform
 - b. dog food
 - c. extra bottled water
 - d. tracking harness
 - e. dog leashes, choke chains, other K-9 supplies

- f. bite sleeve
- g. trunk mounted safe for storage of training aids – explosives/narcotics
- h. first aid kit for K-9, in addition to regular first aid kit
- i. electric dog training collar

DEFINITIONS

BLOODHOUND UNIT – Working dog which will be utilized for search and rescue of lost/missing persons, tracking of criminal suspects/escaped prisoners and cadaver searches.

CANINE (K-9) – Working dog which has been procured and specially trained to execute a number of specific law enforcement and public service tasks which make use of the canine's intelligence, speed, agility, and sense of smell.

K-9 DEPUTY/HANDLER – Deputy specially trained in the care, handling and training of a canine for law enforcement use.

K-9 TEAM – Sheriff's K-9 Deputy and his/her assigned canine.

K-9 TRAINER – Deputy specially trained and certified by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Standards and Training as a K-9 Trainer.

REFERENCES

State/Federal Regulations:

None

CFA:

CFA Standards 14.11M and 14.12M

Forms:

None

Other Policy/ Procedure References:

800.05 K-9 Operations Manual